

Working to protect Illinois jobs and the vital commerce that takes place on the Illinois Waterway system, Rep. Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) released the following statement today regarding the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to reject a request from Michigan and other Great Lakes states to force the immediate closure of two Chicago-area locks in an attempt to stem the flow of Asian Carp into the Great Lakes:

"I commend the Supreme Court's decision to reject the attempt to immediately close the Chicago and O'Brien locks. We need to pursue a balanced, common-sense approach to addressing the issue of invasive species in the Great Lakes ecosystem-however, closing the locks would mean putting thousands of jobs at risk.

With getting our economy back on track our top priority, closing the locks would be an unproven strategy with significant risks. We must continue working to find ways to ensure that Asian carp do not find their way into our Great Lakes, but we should not do so by endangering jobs and our economic recovery."

Halvorson recently joined Congresswoman Judy Biggert (IL-13) and 19 other members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation in sending a letter to Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan supporting her decision to fight attempts to close the locks.